

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~In a cylindrical~~ An underwater acoustic projector ~~comprising having a longitudinal slot and comprising~~ an outer shell formed of a graphite/epoxy material, an inner concentric acoustic driver, and an inner concentric insulative layer, wherein the improvement comprises a metallic liner located between the outer shell and insulative layer, and a longitudinal slot formed in the outer shell, metallic liner and driver.
2. (Original) The projector defined in claim 1 wherein the metallic liner is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, steel, titanium, and brass.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The projector defined in ~~claim 3~~ claim 1 wherein the metallic liner is tapered and increases in radial thickness toward a location diametrically opposite the longitudinal slot.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) The projector defined in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein an ~~arcuate section~~ arcuate sections of a dielectric material ~~extends~~ extend longitudinally along ~~a portion of the I.D. of the metallic liner adjacent each side of the slot and about the driver to assist in retaining the driver within the outer shell and metallic liner.~~
7. (Previously presented) The projector defined in claim 21 wherein certain of the wound strips of the outer shell are wound at approximately 90° to a longitudinal axis of the shell and other of aid strips are wound at an angle of between 45° and 85° to said longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The projector defined in claim 7 wherein said other of said strips are wound at an angle of approximately $\pm 70^\circ$ to the longitudinal axis.

9. (Previously presented) The projector defined in claim 21 wherein the resin impregnated graphic strips are wound in overlapping relationship, said strips include inner and outer layers wound at approximately 90° to a longitudinal axis of the shell, and a plurality of intermediate layers wound at between 45° and 85° to said longitudinal axis.

10. (Original) The projector defined in claim 9 wherein the intermediate strips alternate at \pm approximately 70° to the longitudinal axis.

11. (Previously presented) An acoustic projector comprising
an outer cylindrical shell having an I.D. formed of wound resin impregnated graphite strips;
a metallic liner concentrically mounted within the shell and extending along a portion of the I.D. of the outer shell to provide structural reinforcement thereto:
a driver mounted within the metallic liner; and
insulation separating the driver from the metallic liner.

12. (Original) The acoustic projector defined in claim 11 including aligned longitudinal slots found in the outer shell and metallic liner.

13. (Original) The acoustic projector defined in claim 11 including a pair of arcuate segments extending from opposite sides of the longitudinal slots within the outer shell and in edge abutment with the driver to assist in retaining the driver within the shell.

14. (Previously presented) The acoustic projector defined in claim 11 wherein certain of the strips are wound at approximately 90° to a longitudinal axis of the shell and other of said strips being wound at an angle of between 45° and 85° to said longitudinal axis.

15. (Original) The acoustic projector defined in claim 14 wherein said other of said strips are wound at an angle of approximately $\pm 70^\circ$ to the longitudinal axis.

16. (Previously presented) The acoustic projector defined in claim 14 wherein the resin impregnated graphite strips of the outer shell are wound in overlapping relationship, said strips include inner and outer layers wound at approximately 90° to a longitudinal axis of the shell, and a plurality of intermediate layers wound at between 45° and $85^\circ \pm$ to said longitudinal axis.

17. (Original) The acoustic projector defined in claim 16 wherein the intermediate strips alternate at \pm approximately 70° to the longitudinal axis.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The projector defined in claim 1 wherein the graphite/epoxy material of the outer shell includes wound resin impregnated graphite strips.